

Privacy and Access

At any time you have the right to request

- a record of who accessed your personal health information
- a copy of your personal health information contained in the Drug Information System
- a correction to your personal health information

You also have the right to be notified if there has been a breach of your privacy that could potentially cause you harm or embarrassment. In addition, you may make a written complaint at any time if you believe the Drug Information System has not followed the privacy requirements of the law.

You also have the option to restrict access to your medication profile. While this allows you to control who views your profile, it is important you understand the risks associated with doing so. If you choose to restrict access, you need to be aware that your healthcare providers have the discretion to refuse service, and that if an interaction between medications is detected restricted access may lead to a delay in care.

If you would like more information about Privacy and Access, visit our website at novascotia.ca/dhw/phia

If you wish to speak to someone about your privacy rights or about restricting access to your medication profile, please contact the Department of Health and Wellness Privacy and Access Office at **1-855-640-4765**.



To learn more about the
Nova Scotia Drug Information System:

Visit our website:
novascotia.ca/dhw/dis

E-mail us:
dis@novascotia.ca

Nova Scotia

Drug Information System



The Nova Scotia Drug Information System is an electronic system that allows authorized healthcare providers like your pharmacist, doctor, optometrist, and dentist to access and manage your medication information.

In time, the Drug Information System will contain medication information for any person who has a prescription filled in a pharmacy in Nova Scotia.

When

In fall 2013, pharmacies in Nova Scotia started using the Drug Information System.

Other authorized healthcare providers are expected to begin using the Drug Information System in 2015.

How it Works

Once your pharmacy is connected to the Drug Information System, any new medication information about you will be recorded in your personal medication profile.

Any other pharmacies or authorized healthcare providers will then be able to access your comprehensive medication profile, allowing them to provide you with better care.

From the day each pharmacy and healthcare provider connects, they will be able to add to your personal medication profile. Your profile will contain information from the day your profile was first created.

Benefits

The Drug Information System provides improved patient safety and quality of care.

Benefits for you include

- **a comprehensive profile of your medication information.** Your healthcare providers will have access to your comprehensive medication information, including prescriptions, other medications, allergies, and adverse drug reactions.
- **warnings to flag possible interactions with other drugs.** Because your pharmacist will be able to see your medication information from other pharmacies on the system, they will be able to see if your new prescription may cause a harmful reaction with a medication that you are already taking.
- **fewer adverse drug reactions.** Having all this information in one place makes it easier for your pharmacist to see potential problems arising from using your medications, like bad side effects or allergies.
- **avoiding duplication of medications.** Your pharmacist will be able to tell if a new prescription is similar to a medication that you are already taking from a different pharmacy.
- **electronic sharing of information between authorized healthcare providers.** Today, your healthcare provider has access only to medication information that is in their system or files. The Drug Information System will give healthcare providers access to your comprehensive medication information when and where it is needed.

Your Health Card Number

Your pharmacy will be asking for your health card number. Your unique, personal medication profile will be linked to this number.

Safe and Secure System

The Drug Information System is built with strong security features and has many safeguards to prevent your personal health information from being inappropriately accessed or viewed.

Protecting Your privacy

As the owner of the Drug Information System, the Department of Health and Wellness is committed to protecting your privacy and the confidentiality of your personal health information.

Information is kept in strict confidence. Only authorized healthcare providers may access the drug information system.

All healthcare providers using the system are made aware of their responsibilities to protect the privacy and confidentiality of your personal health information, and all access to your profile is recorded and available upon your request.